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Your essential daily news | WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2015

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A Vancouver man's epic selfie — or "elphie" — goes viral after an elephant steals his camera and snaps a photo. See the story in metroNEWS. COURTESY CHRISTIAN LEBLANC

Teens face charges in stabbing

CRIME

Man, 19, died after weekend altercation in Whistler

Three teenaged boys have been charged with manslaughter following the stabbing death of a 19-year-old man in Whistler.

Luka Gordic was pronounced dead at a local clinic shortly after the violence erupted around midnight on Sunday.

Sgt. Stephanie Ashton of the Integrated Homicide Investigation Unit said the three 17-year-olds appeared in court on Tuesday.

Ashton said one of the teens has a criminal record and the others were not previously known to police.

She said an 18-year-old man is also facing unspecified charges and that he is not in custody yet.

"We're not able to release the 18-year-old's name because there's a ban on the publication of the original hearings, but also because identifying him identifies the other youths that he was with," Ashton said.

"They all knew each other from the Lower Mainland."

The stabbing is believed to have involved an altercation between two groups of people who were spending the long weekend in the resort community.

Police are urging witnesses who have not yet spoken with investigators to come forward.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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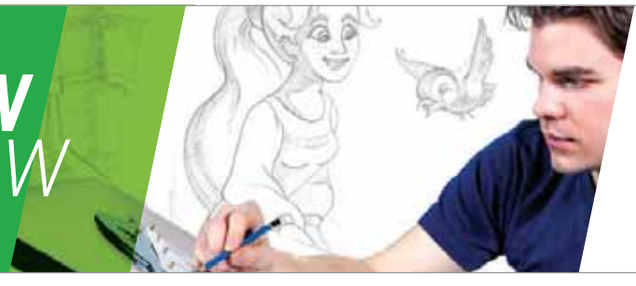

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metro NEWS
Your essential daily news

Randy Quaid appears at refugee hearing in Montreal.

‘We really did beat the odds’

HEALTH

Couple opens up about struggle with infertility

Thandi Fletcher
Metro | Vancouver

When Vancouver’s Rod Furlan holds his newborn son Hudson Max, he can hardly believe he is finally a father.

“Just talking about it brings tears to my eyes,” he told Metro. “We really did beat the odds.”

Two years ago, Furlan and his partner Kim McNulty decided to delay starting a family so they could travel. Little did they know, McNulty, then 34, already had fertility problems that would make it much more difficult to conceive later.

The couple isn’t alone.

According to the Infertility Awareness Association of Canada, one in six Canadian couples of childbearing age struggle to conceive. Part of the problem is a trend of couples putting off starting their families until it is biologically too late.

“It’s very common, especially in a city like Vancouver where life is more expensive and it takes longer to become established,” said Dr. Sonya Kashyap, medical director of the Genesis Fertility Centre in Vancouver. “Most people don’t deliberately delay it, but it’s a situation they find themselves in.”

The promising news, Kashyap said, is that fertility treatment has come a long way in recent years and has quite a high success rate. Although women with fertility problems over the age of 37 typically need at least two cycles of in vitro fertilization (IVF), about 40 to 50 per cent are able to conceive in their first cycle, she said.

Still, the cost of treatment continues to be a barrier for many. While MSP covers the initial consultation and fertility testing, patients pay out-of-pocket for treatment. And treatment is costly: IVF can range from $7,000 to $12,000 per cycle, plus the cost of medication, which can range from $2,000 to $6,000. Egg freezing starts at about $7,000 plus medication.

Shame is another barrier to raising awareness of fertility. Many people don’t talk about infertility because of the stigma, but Kashyap said it’s important for patients to be proactive about their health, as early intervention is key. She urged women to plan ahead and consider egg-freezing if they would like the option of getting pregnant in the future.

“We do see a lot of people who tell us, ‘I wish I knew this sooner,’” she said.

That’s why Furlan and McNulty decided to speak out.

Before they decided to delay starting their family, the couple both underwent fertility testing to ensure they could afford to wait. When they never heard back from the clinic, they assumed they were healthy. A year and a half later, the couple decided to start trying to get pregnant, but nothing happened. They were devastated to find out that the tests were abnormal. McNulty’s ovarian reserve was incredibly low, but no one from the clinic contacted them.

The experience taught them to be proactive about their health. Furlan urged others to trust their health-care providers but to always verify the information they are told and seek a second opinion.

After fertility treatment, the couple conceived their child with only one round of IVF. The odds of that happening were only seven to 10 per cent, said Furlan.

“I often tell Kim that we’re not meant to have this boy,” he said. “The joke we make is that nature said no, but science said yes.”

IN PHOTOS: Newborn Hudson Max Furlan was conceived through in vitro fertilization after parents, right, Rod Furlan and Kim McNulty tried for a year to get pregnant with no success. CONTRIBUTED

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Malaysia invests in B.C. fusion

TECHNOLOGY

Government puts millions into Burnaby energy firm

Emily Jackson
Metro | Vancouver

Malaysia's state-owned energy company may be dragging its feet when it comes to investing in B.C.'s liquefied natural gas industry, but the country is bankrolling another type of energy being developed in the province.

The Malaysian government's strategic investment fund was the largest investor in the latest $27-million round of funding for Burnaby-based General Fusion, the largest fusion energy program in Canada, the company announced Tuesday.

"I know that the Malaysian government does care a lot about sustainability … that theme is certainly in our discussions with them," said General Fusion CEO Nathan Gilliland.

"It's a vote of confidence for fusion energy, a vote of confidence for us and I think a vote of confidence for Vancouver to be a clean energy hub in Canada."

The cash influx brings the total investment in General Fusion to $100 million. The company is trying to figure out how to make fusion energy — which involves heating atoms to extremely high temperatures, creating energy when they collide and fuse — into a practical commercial alternative for generating electricity.

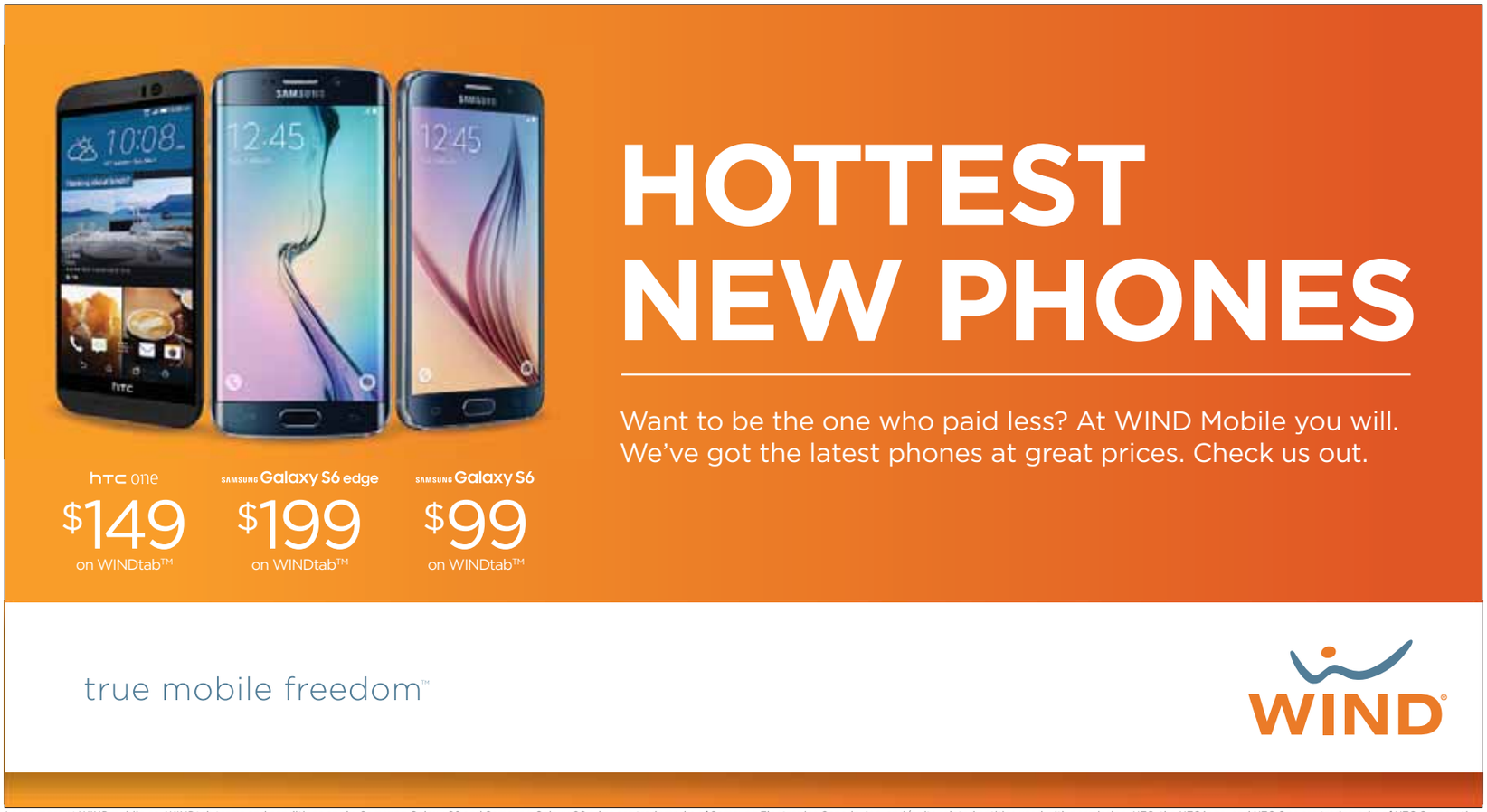
"Fusion energy is very difficult. The world's been after it for a few decades," Gilliland said. "This is a validation that we're making progress, and the fusion industry is coming into its own."

U.S. government labs have proven that fusion can be done, but no one has figured out how to do it economically. General Fusion plans to hire additional staff (the company has 60 employees thus far) to work on the problem.

Still, there's no clear timeline of when fusion energy might be available to the masses, Gilliland said.

"That's the billion-dollar question," he said.

The compression system at General Fusion is an experimental prototype that will contain superheated plasma. CONTRIBUTED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Feds pledge aid to fight gangs

SURREY VIOLENCE

RCMP ranks to grow by 100, $3.5M to youth initiatives

The federal government has pledged 100 new Mounties to the Metro Vancouver city of Surrey in the middle of a spasm of gun violence. The government also pledged $3.5 million to extract those who are vulnerable to becoming gang members in a drug-fuelled turf war.

National Revenue Minister Kerry-Lynne Findlay unveiled the double-barreled strategy aimed at restoring safety to Surrey after months of targeted shootings that have injured many and killed one man.

The response comes as Surrey's leaders and British Columbia's provincial government wave white flags for help from the federal government.

Regional police have made only minor headway stopping the ongoing gunfire that has targeted adversaries in cars, residences and streets.

"I think you'll start to see results right away," Findlay told reporters Tuesday at the announcement at the Surrey School District head office.

She couldn't say when the new officers will be in place, noting that process is still being worked out. The commitment directly answers a formal request for more officers made by the city and B.C.'s attorney general.

RCMP investigate a shooting on Apr. 12, in the 7000 block of 130th Street in Newton. One man was taken to hospital with injuries. On Tuesday, the federal government announced 100 more police officers for Surrey. SHANE MACKICHAN/CONTRIBUTED

Police believe a group of South Asians is battling a group of Somali-descended people to control the area's low-level drug trade.

Five people have been arrested in about 30 shootings since early March, half of whom police have tied to the dispute. About 40 cars have fled from crime scenes. Many witnesses have refused to co-operate.

The bolstered force is expected to make an imminent difference, said Surrey's Acting Mayor Barbara Steele. But she noted that the city's needs continue to grow along with its population, which includes the vulnerable children of refugees.

> **When kids come into the program, hopefully there's been some sort of shift in their thinking, saying, 'Wow, that was scary out there.'**
>
> Rob Rai, manager of the Safe Schools Program

"Those are kids who are at risk to get into the wrong groups. So we're always going to need it," she said.

"The RCMP right now is actually doing a sterling job. It's just that the problem is huge."

The Surrey School District has launched a new program aimed at intercepting those believed to be at risk of enlisting in the gangs, said manager of the Safe Schools program, Rob Rai.

He's hoping the new $3.5 million will wipe out a waiting list of 20 students, between ages 11 and 19, who need direct intervention, as well as ensure no one else goes without support for the next five years.

"When the kids come into the program, hopefully there's been some sort of shift in their thinking, saying, 'Wow, that was scary out there, getting shot at is not nearly as fun or as exciting as I thought it would be,'" Rai said.

Each of the students is vetted by the RCMP before entering the program, including checking for any prior criminal record, parole conditions and weapons offences. They are segregated from mainstream classes and given lessons in a separate building by specialized staff, often one-on-one, he said.

When possible, teens who have dropped out of school are sought out and guided to finish their high school diplomas, he said.

"You can imagine those kids who say, 'Hey, I got shot at, that's a badge of honour. I'm going to continue doing that?' They're not ready for schooling and not necessarily ready for our programs either."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

BACKGROUND

No longer faceless victims

In their bid to end the violence, police took the unusual step of identifying victims — all men — in several of the shootings. That has led to 130 tips, 13 which have proven fruitful in recent weeks, Acting Mayor Barbara Steele said.

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HUDSON'S BAY

Christian LeBlanc with elephants in Thailand. INSTAGRAM

Elephant snaps epic 'elphie'

ODDITY

Precocious pachyderm steals camera, takes photo

Thandi Fletcher
Metro | Vancouver

A Vancouver man says he will never forget the incredible selfie an elephant recently took of him when it grabbed his camera with its trunk and started snapping.

Christian LeBlanc, 22, was visiting Koh Phangan, Thailand, when he started taking photos and feeding bananas to an elephant.

When he ran out of bananas, LeBlanc said, the gentle giant snatched up his GoPro mount. With the camera set on time lapse, the elephant was able to snap a spectacular selfie — or as LeBlanc calls it, an "elphie." It's on the front page of this edition.

"I couldn't believe it had happened, let alone taken the snap at the right moment," he told Metro in an email interview.

LeBlanc soon posted the photo on Instagram, where it has since received more than 500 likes. This week, the photo also appeared on the Daily Mail and New York Post's websites.

While he is stunned to see the photo make international headlines, LeBlanc, who is still travelling abroad, said he agrees is it an incredible image.

"This is definitely hands-down my most epic selfie," he said, "but I will hopefully top it today as I swim with whale sharks in the Philippines."

BIKE TO WORK WEEK

Drivers warned to look out for cyclists

Even more cyclists than usual will be hitting the streets next week, prompting ICBC to issue a statement warning drivers to keep their eyes peeled for people travelling on two wheels.

Crashes involving cyclists peak in the summer months with an average of five cyclists injured per day in B.C., according to ICBC statistics released Tuesday to remind drivers about Bike to Work Week from May 25 to 31.

Over a typical B.C. summer, 670 cyclists are injured and six killed. Throughout the year, there are an average of 520 crashes involving cyclists in Vancouver alone.

"Really, the important piece is how they can share the road safely," ICBC road safety manager Aileen Shibata said. "Any injury or death is preventable."

METRO

TRANS MOUNTAIN

Ex-ICBC CEO withdraws from review

Robyn Allan, the former president and CEO of ICBC, withdrew from the National Energy Board joint review process into the proposed Trans Mountain expansion Tuesday, calling it a "broken system."

In a letter to the NEB, the economist writes "continued participation endorses a broken system and enables the pretence of due process where none exists" and that the review "is not conducted on a level playing field."

The letter outlines her objections with the NEB process, including its restricted scope, the inability to cross-examine Kinder Morgan about its project and panel decisions she feels are biased.

Allan joins former BC Hydro CEO Marc Eliesen as two high-profile independent intervenors who have withdrawn from the hearings over its perceived flaws.

Last week, the Metro Vancouver Regional district voted to officially oppose the planned project, while the mayors of Vancouver, Burnaby, New Westminster, North Vancouver, Victoria, Squamish and Bowen Island previously called on the federal government to halt the "deeply flawed" review process.

The NEB's review continues regardless.

Intervenors have until May 27 to file evidence with the NEB.

On Monday, Vancouver, Burnaby and the Tsleil-Waututh Nation released a report from consultant Jeffrey Short concluding that as many as 100,000 sea and shorebirds could be killed in the Fraser River estuary in the event of a "worst case" scenario spill.

In a statement provided to Metro, Trans Mountain said it welcomes the new report as part of the review process.

MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

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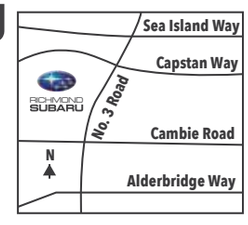

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Wildfire rages near Prince George

The Little Bobtail Lake fire burns near Prince George.
BC WILDFIRE MANAGEMENT BRANCH

LITTLE BOBTAIL LAKE

Firefighters keeping blaze at bay, awaiting cooler weather

Firefighters continued to battle a growing wildfire southwest of Prince George but cooler weather earlier this week is expected to keep it from spreading while lightning poses a continuing threat.

However, fire information officer Kevin Skrepnek said the Little Bobtail Lake fire grew by 40 per cent to 250 square kilometres over the weekend.

"It's unusual to see a fire of this size so early in the season," Skrepnek said. "Otherwise, it's been a pretty typical year in terms of number of fires we've seen and the area burned."

Eighty people remain out of their homes in the Prince George area, while residents in 830 properties in the regional districts of Fraser-Fort George the Bulkley-Nichako are on evacuation alert.

While the Little Bobtail fire is believed to be caused by humans, lightning fuelled a cluster of seven fires in the central Cariboo region on the long weekend, including a 30,000-square-metre blaze near Anahim Lake.

All the new fires are either extinguished or under control.

About 25 lightning-caused fires have cropped up across the province so far this season, among the 186 wildfires crews have fought.

> **"It's unusual to see a fire of this size so early in the season.**
> Fire information officer Kevin Skrepnek

Around 270 square kilometres have burned so far, Skrepnek said, including the area consumed by the Little Bobtail fire.

Last year, the province spent $298 million fighting wildfires, more than four times the yearly allocation of $63 million.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Vehicle used in attempted shooting of cop located

Police have found the vehicle involved in a high-speed police chase through three municipalities after the driver allegedly attempted to shoot a New Westminster police officer.

The vehicle, a rented white four-door Buick Lacrosse with Alberta plates, was found unoccupied at about 8 p.m. Monday in a residential driveway with no connection to the case. The car is now in police custody and undergoing forensic processing. Police are continuing to search for the couple, a man and a woman, who they said should be considered armed and dangerous.

THANDI FLETCHER/METRO

SAFETY TRAIN-ING EXERCISE In partnership with TransLink, CP, West Coast Express and CP police, crews from Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services practised responding to a crash between a West Coast Express train and a small Saturn car on the tracks in Gastown as part of a training exercise on Tuesday morning. Equipped with the Jaws of Life, about a dozen members of the Heavy Rescue Team worked for more than 45 minutes to chop off the smashed roof of the car and rescue the dummy inside. Exercises are crucial so crews know how to work in challenging environments such as the railway, where communicating with external parties is essential, Vancouver fire public information officer Brian Hutchinson said. EMILY JACKSON/METRO

Sundeck fine not too harsh: Judge

APPEAL

Vancouver man disputed $3,500 fine for not having permit

Neal Hall
For Metro | Vancouver

A man fined $3,500 for building a third-floor covered sundeck without a building permit and ignoring notices from the City of Vancouver to remove it has lost his appeal.

Michael McClintock, who owns a rental property at 21 E., 22nd Avenue in Vancouver, had a 15x6 glass and aluminium deck cover the third floor roof deck, which led to the rear fire escape stairs.

He didn't obtain the required development permit or a building permit.

One of his neighbours complained, resulting in a building inspector attending and viewing the illegal deck from the ground. The city sent a letter to McClintock requiring him to either apply for the permits or remove the installation within 30 days.

The building inspector revisited the property two months later, finding the deck installation still in place and no applications for permits.

The city issued an order under the zoning bylaws for McClintock to obtain permits or remove the deck covering before Jan. 29, 2013.

McClintock responded with a letter dated Jan. 28, 2013, explaining his reasons for erecting the deck cover: He said it was constructed of engineered materials, provided safe access for the top floor tenants to the fire escape stairway and contributed to a "green" environment.

McClintock was found guilty of failing to remove the structure after failing to obtain the necessary permits. He was fined $3,000, which McClintock argued on appeal was "too much."

McClintock also argued the bylaw was unfairly enforced because there are many existing similar deck covers in the City of Vancouver but enforcement only happens in response to a complaint.

"Although it is understandable that he might find the complaint-driven nature of the enforcement process somewhat arbitrary, that does not furnish him with a defence," B.C. Supreme Court Associate Chief Justice Austin Cullen concluded, upholding the fines.

"In my view, the penalties imposed by the judge in the court below, bearing in mind the maximum penalty for each offence was $10,000, were not unfit but corresponded with the need to provide a meaningful deterrence to those who would deliberately ignore their obligations under the relevant regulations and bylaws," the judge said.

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Scientists fight to publish

LABOUR

Union rallies outside the Vancouver Public Library

Matt Kieltyka
Metro | Vancouver

Scientists unable to publish their work in public refuse to remain silent ahead of the federal election.

During a wide-ranging union rally outside the Vancouver Public Library on Tuesday, Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada regional director Robert MacDonald made his case for scientific integrity.

"Scientific integrity in the U.S. and a lot of European countries has actually been enshrined in policy and law," he said. "What that does is allow public-sector scientists to be able to publish their material, publish their research, making sure that they can be asking questions openly and make sure that the research gets out there into the field for peer-review."

Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada's Robert MacDonald speaks at a rally in Vancouver on Tuesday. MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

The union, representing 55,000 public sector professionals and scientists, is currently in negotiations with government and has made the issue one of its main bargaining demands.

But with an election looming over Canadians, MacDonald hopes the public will also be paying attention as scientists are prevented from publicly speaking about their work on a range of issues.

"We hear an increasing number of stories from our members about their concerns about not being able to publish and not being able to present their findings," said MacDonald. "Over the last number of years, there's been a roadblock in that. If it's not happening, how do we know that it's good research, how do we know they're good results and how can we build on it?

"Public science affects all of us, it affects our day-to-day lives. We're going to make sure that this is part of the public dialogue."

IN BRIEF

Saudi-born dad named guardian of adopted-out daughter born in Alberta

British Columbia's highest court has granted guardianship rights to a Saudi Arabian-born man whose infant daughter was put up for adoption by her drug-addicted mother.

The father, identified as M in the B.C. Appeal Court ruling, took B.C.'s director of adoption to court in 2011 to gain sole custody of the now six-year-old girl identified as O. She was born in Vancouver and later placed with a family in Alberta.

The father lost in a lower court, with the judge ruling he was not a guardian under the law because he did not regularly care for the child, but Justice Mary Newbury says in the 2-1 ruling that M intended to care for O and did all he could.

Newbury named M and the director as O's guardians, told each to agree on their rights and responsibilities for her, but said the father can continue to contact his daughter in the interim. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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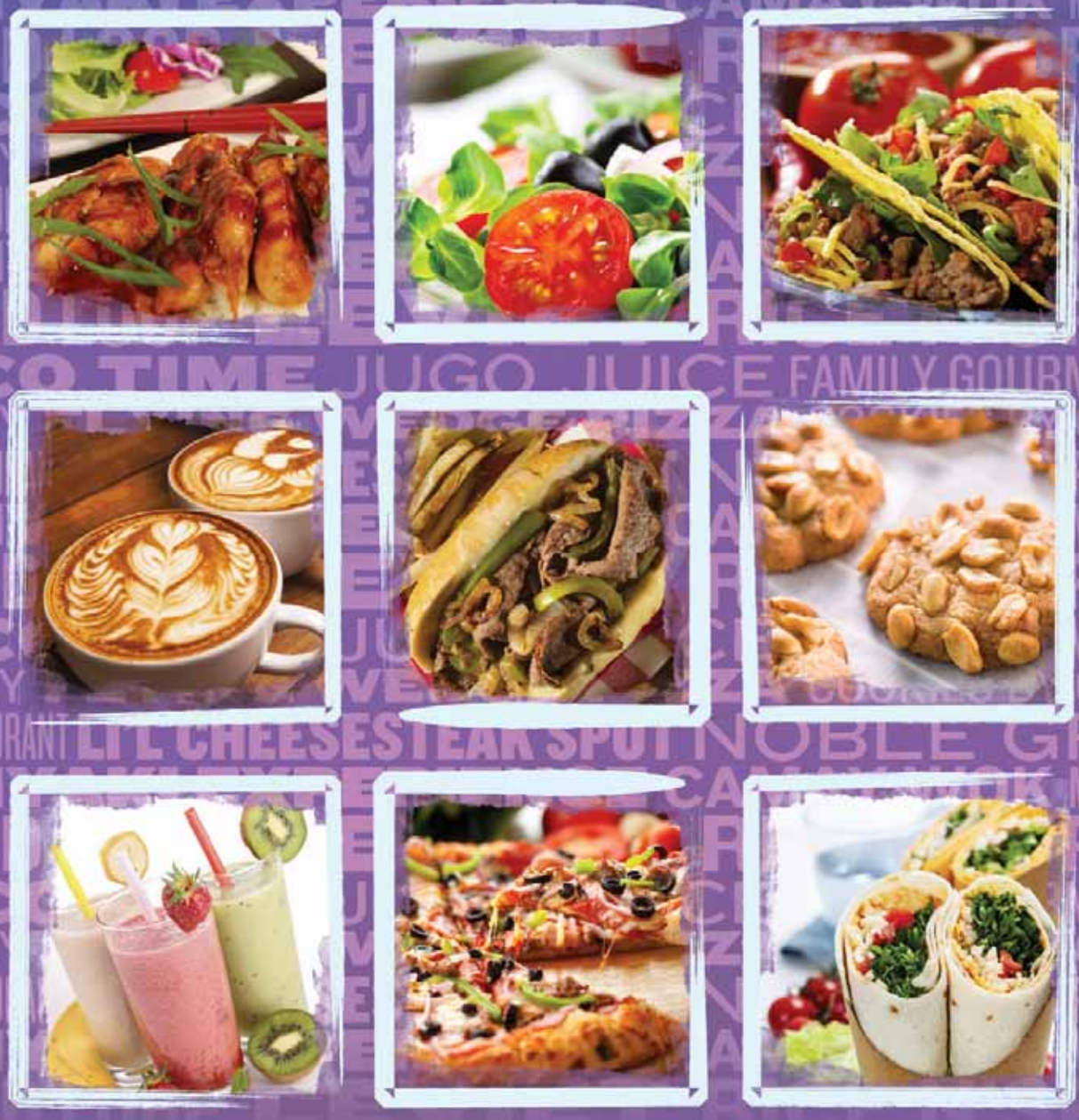

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Toronto artist Viktor Mitic. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

NEW YORK ARTIST GUNS FOR FAME IN U.S.
Toronto artist Viktor Mitic, above, paints portraits of famous people, everyone from Brad Pitt to Ronald McDonald, and then riddles the paintings with bullets. His portrait of former mayor Rob Ford, left, is among 58 on display at the ARTISANworks gallery in Rochester, N.Y. The gallery describes Mitic's work as "an acerbic commentary on society's attitudes towards guns and violence and its obsession with fame." TEXT: LUKE SIMCOE/METRO IN TORONTO

Licence to grow

OTTAWA

President of university behind medical weed company

Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

University of Ottawa president Allan Rock and his family are behind a budding new business venture — now all they need is a licence from the federal government to grow medical marijuana.

Corporate documents obtained by Metro show Rock, his wife Deborah Hanscom and their two children have started a business called RockGarden Medicinals Inc.

On its website, the company says it aims to become "a trusted supplier of premium medicinal marijuana."

Before they can do that, however, Health Canada needs to grant them a licence to grow medical marijuana — something Hanscom, who is the company's chief executive officer, says is still up in the air.

"Right now we're not close to having a licence to produce, and there's other applicants in the community in our position," she said.

Hanscom, who uses medical marijuana herself to treat chronic pain, says obtaining a license is taking longer than expected because Health Canada is still getting its rules and regulations sorted out.

> **It's been a great experience, but it's still a real work in progress.**
> Deborah Hanscom, CEO of RockGarden Medicinals Inc. and wife of Allan Rock

"Everyone needs to keep a site available, there's a cost to keeping people who will be your professionals, keeping shareholders interested in the uncertainty," she said. That has left the company in limbo.

The family incorporated two companies in 2013 and 2014, corporate records show.

One of them — an Ontario numbered company — lists Rock as its president and as one of its directors. His name does not appear on the corporate filings of the second company, RockGarden Medicinals (2014) Inc.

Both companies list 259 McLeod St. in downtown Ottawa as their business address.

Property records show Rock and Hanscom bought the property in March 2014.

Hanscom says the numbered company owns the building where RockGarden Medicinals hopes to eventually grow medicinal marijuana.

The other company handles RockGarden Medicinals' business operations, she said.

But Hanscom says her husband — who held the justice and health portfolios in the Liberal government of former prime minister Jean Chrétien — is not involved in the marijuana-growing side of the business.

"He's not involved in the business, but other members of our family are involved, that's where the name comes from," she said.

Rock — whose term as president and vice-chancellor of the University of Ottawa comes to an end next year — did not respond to a request for comment on Tuesday.

Hanscom says she has enjoyed the experience of starting a medical marijuana business, even if it never gets off the ground.

"I don't know if the yellow brick road will ever have an ending," she said. "It's been a great experience, but it's still a real work in progress."

Health Canada has yet to respond to a request for comment.

University of Ottawa president Allan Rock is seen in this file photo. Rock and his family are trying to obtain a licence fron Health Canada to grow medical marijuana. LUCY SCHOLEY/METRO

Ontario police probe RCMP handling of long-gun registry

Allegations of RCMP wrongdoing related to the illegal destruction of long-gun registry records are under investigation by the Ontario Provincial Police.

It's the latest twist in an unprecedented battle between the Conservative government and an independent officer of parliament whose job is to safeguard Canadians' access to government records.

Information commissioner Suzanne Legault issued a special report last week revealing she had recommended in March that charges be laid against the RCMP for the destruction of long-gun registry records that were part of an active investigation.

PM COMMENTS

PM Stephen Harper has said the Mounties were just respecting the will of Parliament when they destroyed gun records that were subject to an active access-to-information request and investigation by the information commissioner.

The Harper government responded by retroactively rewriting the law, backdating the changes and burying the amendment in an omnibus budget bill.

Legault calls that a "perilous precedent" that could be used by governments to retroactively rewrite laws on everything from spending scandals to electoral fraud.

While the Conservatives press ahead with an omnibus bill that will retroactively erase the offence from the books, Justice Minister Peter MacKay's office has confirmed that it sent Legault's findings to the Public Prosecution Service of Canada, which in turn handed the file over to an investigative agency.

"It will be looked at by a senior investigator," said Sgt. Peter Leon of the OPP, confirming an investigation will take place. THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Mounties arrest 10 youths suspected of wanting to join jihadists overseas
The RCMP says 10 young people suspected of wanting to join jihadist groups overseas were arrested on the weekend at Montreal's Trudeau International Airport.

No charges have been laid, the investigation is ongoing and the 10 young Montrealers have had their passports confiscated.

The RCMP said in a statement that it is unable to release any names. Officers have, however, met with the families and friends of the 10 suspects. They ask that the privacy of the family members be respected.

The statement said "these are very difficult times for the relatives and loved ones of the persons arrested, as the decision to leave the country was not that of the family, but of a single family member." As a result, said the RCMP, "family members often find themselves at a complete loss and unable to understand the decision." The arrests were made by the Integrated National Security Enforcement Team. THE CANADIAN PRESS

ENVIRONMENT

Canada's GHG targets unlikely to impress

Prime Minister Stephen Harper's new greenhouse gas emissions targets may not win him any raves at next month's G7 summit, but it could help him stave off a bit of criticism.

Harper is expected to attend the June leaders' summit where his German hosts will focus on climate change as their neighbour and fellow G7 member, France, prepares to host a major environmental summit in December.

Canada has faced criticism for being a climate-change laggard, but last week the Harper government announced it would aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 30 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030.

Barry Rabe, a climate policy expert at the University of Michigan, says Canada's target appears more ambitious than expected, but is still not enough to win plaudits in foreign capitals.

The target may be an indication that Canada is sensitive to some of the past international criticism it has faced because it was higher than expected, he said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

EMISSIONS

A look at what others are saying about their climate change targets.

- **Canada:** Environment Minister Leona Aglukkaq says Canada plans to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 30 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030.
- **United States:** In a submission to the climate conference, Washington has repeated a pledge to reduce emissions by 26 to 28 per cent below 2005 levels by 2025.
- **Russia:** Moscow uses 1990 as its baseline and says it aims to reduce emissions to 70 to 75 per cent of 1990 levels by 2030.
- **Europe:** The European Union says it intends to cut emissions by at least 40 per cent below 1990 levels by 2030. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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An Italian Coast Guard ship carrying migrants arrives at Pozzallo's harbor near Ragusa, Sicily, Italy, Tuesday. European Union nations approved plans Monday for a naval operation that will go after the human trafficking networks that are sending thousands of migrants weekly across the Mediterranean toward Europe or to their deaths. CARMELO IMBESI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EU plan risky: Experts

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Plan aims to systematically destroy vessels of smugglers

Experts say the European Union's plan to disrupt the business of human traffickers and destroy their boats in the Mediterranean is a short-term deterrent that is likely to be dangerous, costly and tough to implement.

Faced with a rising death toll of migrants trying to cross the Mediterranean to get into Europe, the EU wants to launch a military operation next month to "destroy the business model" of the smugglers to coincide with the migrant high season. The operation will progressively include surveying smuggling routes, searching and boarding possible smuggling boats and eventually, possibly destroying those boats.

However, experts voiced concern Tuesday about the plan's real impact on smugglers — saying it could be just a media show to demonstrate EU determination to stop these perilous sea voyages.

The operation is still in the planning stage and requires a UN Security Council resolution and some consent from Libya, the major departure site for smugglers, for its full implementation to be legally sound. It will involve European navy ships, drones and satellite imagery.

"Having this aggressive military action is really sound and fury," said Tuesday Reitano from the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime. "It's going to cost a lot, it's going to look very impressive, with naval boats patrolling up and down, but it's certainly not going to have a long-term impact."

According to a planning document, the aim is "to disrupt the business model of the smugglers" by systematically destroying their main assets: boats.

Some of the simple boats though, many of them inflatable, might be easily replaced. Others have been designed to be abandoned, like the cargo ship programed to ram into Italy's shore.

But some may be tougher to replace, raising costs and convincing fishermen to no longer make their vessels available to smugglers.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ISIL

Iraq responds to capture of Ramadi

As it moves to try to reverse the stunning loss of Ramadi, the capital of Iraq's largest Sunni province, the Shiite-led government is hamstrung by the sectarian politics it has failed to overcome ever since the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) began its rampage more than a year ago.

Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi vowed Tuesday to arm Sunni tribesmen to help retake Ramadi, a plan the United States has encouraged to better empower the minority community in the fight to defend their cities and to reduce their support for the Sunni extremists.

But the pledge met immediate skepticism from Sunnis, given that similar promises after ISIL militants seized the northern city of Mosul last summer were barely implemented.

It also met quick resistance from Shiite rivals within al-Abadi's own government, who oppose arming Sunnis.

At the same time, the government was rallying Iranian-backed Shiite militiamen to join the offensive, raising the prospect of dangerous frictions in a country that was nearly torn to pieces by bloody Shiite-Sunni violence from 2006-2007. Though the Shiite militiamen have been crucial to reversing other losses to ISIL militants, they have also been accused of abuses against Sunni residents of those areas.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AMTRAK DERAILMENT

Unions want another crew member on board

Railroad unions are urging Amtrak to put a second crew member in locomotives in the wake of a deadly derailment last week in Philadelphia.

The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen and SMART Transportation say an engineer and an additional crew member would serve as a check and balance on each other.

Engineer Brandon Bostian was alone in the locomotive of Train 188 when it derailed May 12, killing eight people and injuring about 200.

Investigators are looking into why the train was going more than double the 50 mph limit around a sharp curve.

The unions say Amtrak hasn't had a second crew member in the cab of Northeast Corridor trains since 1983, after Congress ended the requirement.

Also Tuesday, a lawyer for the lead conductor on the train says his client suffered a broken neck and broken back. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Push on for paid sick leave

EMPLOYMENT

Big U.S. firms tweak policies to get ahead of new legislation

For Shannon Henderson, getting a cold or flu could be the difference between putting food on the table and going hungry. As a part-time customer service representative at a Walmart in Sacramento, Calif., Henderson is one of an estimated 40 million American workers for whom calling in sick is a luxury. If they don't work, they don't get paid.

Paid sick leave is the next frontier in the fight for the country's lowest earners. The debate has caught the attention of governments and companies alike.

U.S. President Barack Obama is calling for federal legislation that would require companies to guarantee workers paid sick days. And since San Francisco started requiring that in 2007, nearly 20 cities and three states — Connecticut, Massachusetts and California — have passed similar measures. New York, Maryland and other states are considering laws, too. McDonald's Corp. and Wal-Mart Stores Inc. both are making changes to their paid sick leave policies.

The new focus comes in the face of wide disparities between the benefits received by the top and bottom rungs of the corporate ladder. Sixty-one per cent of U.S. workers get at least one paid sick day, according to a survey conducted last year by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

But only 20 per cent of workers whose wages are in the bottom 10 per cent get paid sick leave, compared with 87 per cent in the top 10 per cent. Also, 74 per cent of full-time workers get paid sick leave, while 24 per cent of part-time workers do, according to BLS.

Despite the disparities, some industry groups are fighting against laws requiring sick leave pay. Many companies are leaning toward policies that lump together sick, personal and vacation days.

Big companies are changing their paid sick leave policies ahead of legislation.

Walmart said within a year it would end the one-day wait for sick pay for all full-time U.S. workers. A spokesman said the company is reviewing its sick policy for part-time workers.

McDonald's is taking a different approach by lumping together personal and sick days. Starting July 1, full-time and part-time workers at company-owned restaurants will begin to accrue personal paid time off after one year of service that can be used for sick leave. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Shannon Henderson poses outside the Walmart store where she works in Sacramento, Calif. She is one of about 40 million workers who don't get paid if they call in sick. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

> **I'm super-afraid of getting sick.**
> Shannon Henderson

MEAT LABELLING LAWS

U.S. lawmakers introduce bill to avert trade war

A group of U.S. lawmakers hopes to move swiftly in an effort to avoid a trade war with Canada.

Members of a congressional committee have introduced a bill that would repeal American meat-labelling standards.

The move from the House agriculture committee came a day after the World Trade Organization found the standards violated international trade law. Canada and Mexico are seeking to slap tariffs on a wide range of American goods, unless the U.S. Congress changes the rules.

The new bill would repeal the requirement that beef, pork and poultry sold in the U.S. be labelled with the country where the animals were born, raised and slaughtered.

Canada and Mexico blame the rule for reducing exports and major business groups in the U.S. also criticize it for complicating the sorting process. The Canadian government said Tuesday it is serious about retaliation.

The sponsors of the American bill expressed optimism that it would have enough votes to pass the House of Representatives and then also the Senate, where adoption could be a bit trickier.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Insolvencies rising in Canada, report finds

The number of Canadians who can't pay their debts and are being forced into insolvency is on the rise for the first time since the recession, according to a report by CIBC. The bank says the cumulative number of insolvencies rose by 1.2 per cent in the six-month period ended in February. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Oil and gas sector could lose 185,000 jobs: Study

A new study by Enform's labour market division says shrinking budgets in the oil and gas industry could lead to as many as 185,000 direct and indirect job losses this year in Canada. It says engineering construction firms are the most vulnerable. THE CANADIAN PRESS

New MacBook Pro, iMac

Apple is introducing an updated MacBook Pro laptop, starting at $1,999 US, and a new $1,999 US iMac desktop computer. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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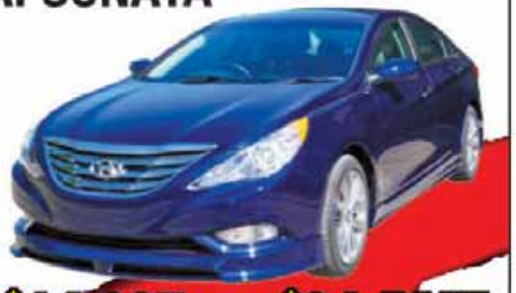

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metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Wednesday, May 20, 2015

THE BIG THING: CANNES TAKES A STAND ON HIGH HEELS

The ultra-fancy French film festival stepped on some toes this week after hosts turned several women away from movie premieres for wearing flat shoes instead of high heels. The resulting social media dust-up kicked off a debate about the rights to individual expression and comfort versus the obligation to respect the dress code of a private event. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

1 "Shoegate" Backlash was quick after several older women reportedly were denied entry to Sunday's premiere of the film Carol, for wearing flat shoes. Asif Kapadia, director of the Amy Winehouse documentary Amy, tweeted that his wife temporarily was barred from his premiere for the same reason.

2 Cannes responds There's long been a strict formal dress code at Cannes — men in tuxedos; women in evening dresses — but there's no specific rule about heel height, said festival spokeswoman Christine Aime. She said hosts were reminded of that after the controversy hit.

3 Award for awkwardness This hiccup came at a bad time, as Cannes has worked hard to embrace gender equality. A female director opened the event for the first time since 1987. The fest features female-driven films such as the thriller Sicaro, with Emily Blunt, who said it's "disappointing" female festival-goers were expected to suffer for the sake of formality.

For health and privacy, we must protect genetic data

THE SCIENCE
Stephanie Orford

Earlier this month the Senate Human Rights Committee gutted a bill calling for a law against genetic discrimination in Canada. Instead of protecting Canadians from having their personal genetic information used against them, the bill now simply provides a definition of "disclose" and "genetic test," and protects no one.

More than 26,000 genetic tests are now available to the public. Many do-it-yourself tests, like those offered by mail from the California-based company 23andMe, cost less than $200. As more Canadians elect to find out what their genetic blueprints say about them, Canada needs to protect their genetic information from being misused.

According to Senator James Cowan, who tabled the bill, most other Western democratic countries have laws like this already. In 2003, the United Nations' scientific and cultural organization adopted the International Declaration on Human Genetic Data, which aims to prevent personal genetic information from being used against an individual or group.

Why isn't Canada on board? The insurance industry opposed the original bill banning genetic discrimination, Senator Cowan said in the Senate.

Really? Should business interests be the reason this principle fails to become law?

Many Canadians who are sick and in need of treatment could be helped by genetic testing.

But with no law to protect them, they might decide not to get tested.

They might fear repercussions from their insurance company or employers down the road, if their tests indicate they carry genes that predispose them to a medical condition or disease.

Canadians may well decide not to get tested if there's a risk their insurance premiums will go up, or that they will be denied insurance.

Ironically, when a patient is able to catch a genetic disease early through testing, they're often able to take preventative measures that reduce the potential cost of their care for everyone involved — including themselves, the government and their insurers.

Genetic discrimination could come from anywhere, not just insurance companies. Should a hospital be allowed to deny a surgeon a job if he or she were found to be at risk for tremor-causing Parkinson's disease? Would it be OK if a private school, whose reputation depends on its students' test scores, rejected a student who carried a gene related to dyslexia?

We should not leave these decisions for Canadian organizations to make for themselves. As researchers discover more about the complicated human blueprint, Canadians will need increasing protection from discrimination that might arise from that information.

Should a hospital be able to deny a surgeon a job if he or she were found to be at risk for tremor-causing Parkinson's? Would it be OK if a private school ... rejected a student who carried a gene related to dyslexia?

Stephanie Orford is a Vancouver-based writer. The Science appears every other Wednesday.

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

The government has to give us some facts before it spins them

There's spin, and then there are facts.

And while I don't mind Stephen Harper's heavy messaging, it's scary how little actual information we're fed.

Take government scientists, muzzled by what one prominent biologist called the Conservatives' "control issue."

Yesterday, scientists in Ottawa and elsewhere rallied to protest restraints that keep them from talking to the media. Cuts to research mean policies will be based on ideology in the absence of science, they argue.

Biologist Steve Campana (now retired), described a fear among scientists. As veterans like him retire to escape the toxic environment, there will be a hollowing-out of expertise and a "death spiral for government science," he told media.

Of course, Harper is concerned we get his messages. Conservative talking points are so tightly worded he might as well use wind-up dolls. I'm not upset that he holds his MPs so close they must know what deodorant he wears. Spin, after all, is a part of government.

But this is about silencing research that we pay for. And it goes far beyond science.

A recent Toronto Star editorial accused Harper of silencing numerous watchdogs, including ones who overlooked the budget, nuclear energy and veterans affairs.

In Kill the Messengers: Stephen Harper's Assault on Your Right to Know, published this year, author Mark Bourrie argues Harper's control over MPs and bureaucrats makes officials accountable to the PM's agenda, not the electorate.

We've got a National Press Theatre, but you'd never know it, since Harper barely bothers with the press. And his attendance at question period has dwindled to less than one third of the time, the National Post reported this weekend.

Meanwhile, our Access to Information Act feels more like the Failure to Access Information Act. It's more a "shield against transparency," Information Commissioner Suzanne Legault said ahead of a report released in March.

And it's a joke: last year, the Privy Council Office redacted even Prime Minister David Cameron's name before releasing details of his 2011 visit (agenda items were also blacked out).

To quote Campana: "when you go to the extent of silencing just talking about facts, that just doesn't make any sense." And it doesn't make for a good democracy.

If it must, the government can spin the facts I already have on hand — because it gave them to me. Without those facts, I can't properly judge its actions.

Besides, it's my information.

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Leonardo DiCaprio buys his mom a $13K Chanel bag at Cannes charity auction

Mirror gazing shows men the vainest of all

SURVEY

Males admire their reflection 23 times a day, females only 16

Men in the survey admitted to spending 10 minutes per day looking at their reflection — amounting to over two days per year of image gazing. ISTOCK

Women are often portrayed as bathroom hoggers who spend hours in front of the mirror before leaving the house, but new research shows that men could actually be the vainer sex.

A survey of 1,000 British individuals by men's lifestyle e-tailer Avaj has revealed that men look at their reflection 23 times a day on average — compared to women, who check themselves out a mere 16 times.

And while the ladies are generally checking that nothing is out of place and worrying about love handles or stray eyebrow hairs, guys admit that most of the time when they check themselves out it is purely for the pleasure of admiring their favourite body parts.

On average, men confessed to spending 10 minutes per day looking at their reflection — amounting to over two days per year. A self-confident 11 per cent of male respondents even admitted to mirror gazing over 30 times a day.

When it comes to their favourite parts, the majority of guys are all about the guns, with 76 per cent checking out their arms. This is followed by their legs (54 per cent), their smiles (49 per cent), their eyes (43 per cent), and their hair (38 per cent).

Overall, 82 per cent of men agreed that maintaining a good personal appearance was a key prerogative, with 67 per cent revealing they have three or more cosmetic products, and 34 per cent admitting to having used a female friend or family member's cosmetic products in the past. Nine percent use cosmetic products targeted at women regularly.

Tracey Denison, managing director at Avaj, said the behaviour could be due to the increasing trend for selfies. "It's also possible that the selfie trend is partially driving this rise in male vanity, as people become more used to celebrating their appearance," she explained.

> **"It's also possible that the selfie trend is partially driving this rise in male vanity, as people become more used to celebrating their appearance**
> Tracy Denison, managing director at Avaj

"Unfortunately, this doesn't seem to have seeped through to women as much, and they still seem to be the more self-conscious sex." AFP

ANALYSIS

Pop lyrics getting dumber and dumber

Lyrics across a variety of pop genres have been losing sophistication over the last 10 years, according to an analysis by Andrew Powell-Morse of ticket marketplace SeatSmart.

Powell-Morse analyzed 225 songs hat had all spent at least three weeks at number one on the Billboard charts for Pop, Country, Rock, and R&B/Hip-Hop for any given year.

He found that while in 2005-2006 an eight- or nine-year-old might have had trouble with some pop lyrics, that is no longer a problem, with 2014 lyrics dipping to the reading level of a seven- or eight-year-old.

Among his other findings are that men "talk more" — that is, their songs feature a higher word count — while women "have slightly more intelligent things to say," measured by the U.S. grade level of the texts.

Country came out with the highest reading level, followed by pop and rock with a tie, and R&B/hip-hop had the lowest. Artists who came out on top included Eminem for hip-hop, Carrie Underwood for country, Nickelback for rock and Mariah Carey for pop. AFP

Carrie Underwood
GETTY IMAGES

HEALTH TECH

Car company puts priority on potty breaks

Toyota knows how important bathroom breaks are on long road trips, so they've developed an app for locating the loo.

Due to roll out Thursday in Japan, the app doesn't just tell you where the toilet is, it gives specifics like how many steps there are into a building, if it is wheelchair accessible, what the hours of operation are, or if it has baby changing facilities.

Created in partnership with the Iseshima Barrier Free Tour Center, a not-for-profit organization that promotes personal "barrier-free" standards for people with special needs, the app will get its official debut at Welfare 2015, a health and welfare exhibition taking place this week in Nagoya, Japan.

Initially the app will only offer in-depth information on areas in Japan. AFP

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Back to basics

From canning to condo-raised quail, a movement is bringing the country to city living

Scientists and urban homesteaders Michelle Nelson and Chris Mull
ALISON PAGE/THE URBAN HOMESTEADING COOKBOOK

Laura Boast
Metro | Life

So you want to go back to the land, raise livestock, harvest crops.

Like most city folk, however, your head's in the clouds, 20 storeys up, nowhere close to a home with a garden, let alone farmland. It's impossible, you think.

Far from it, say the authors of three new cookbooks. Your dream is as close as your kitchen.

All three are pioneers of urban homesteading, a movement reviving the hands-on skills of farm living — and eating — in the heart of the city. It's everything from growing herbs on your windowsill to raising quail and collecting your eggs for breakfast.

"Everything DIY, it's really rewarding," says Aimée Wimbush-Bourque, creator of Simple Bites blog and author of Brown Eggs and Jam Jars. "People are rediscovering the joy of using their hands again."

For Wimbush-Bourque and her husband, it's about teaching their children self-sufficiency, and how much fun that can be. They even tap their own sugar maple tree in Laval, Que., to make maple syrup.

Urban homesteaders come from all walks of life. Camilla Wynne, author of Preservation Society: Home Preserves, went from playing in an indie rock band to making delicious jams, jellies and preserves at her company Preservation Society in downtown Montreal.

"A lot of urban people don't have direct contact with farms and nature and things like that," says Wynne. "People working in offices, it connects them with the parts of our lives that are missing."

One thing that connects all urban homesteaders is a taste for whole foods — in some cases, extreme whole foods.

Michelle Catherine Nelson, author of The Urban Homesteading Cookbook, is a practitioner of that approach. Like the rabbits she raised in the living room of her downtown Vancouver condo — not as pets, but ingredients. She believes foodies are leading the way.

"There's a desire for homemade, artisanal food," says Nelson, a conservation biologist on the West Coast. "Some of it is esthetic — like craft beer is cooler because it's craft beer — and some of it is about the quality."

It's good for the planet

All three women agree that making food and drinks from scratch is not only good for your taste buds and pocketbook, but for the planet.

"Eating local (year-round) is not super easy, unless you're canning," says Wynne.

Urban homesteading takes less energy than factory-scale farming, and reduces food transportation costs down to walking across the living room to your balcony to harvest tomatoes.

Anyone can do it

Even if the closest you've been to a farm is a petting zoo and you grew up on processed food, these pioneers say you can champion the urban homesteading movement.

Nelson recommends YouTube instructional videos and online forums as learning tools. They're not just practical resources — they can provide a sense of community, something you may need starting out, along with a supportive partner.

"A huge part of my being able to do this is my partner (Chris)," Nelson says. "When I started three years ago, (it seemed) nobody was doing any of this stuff.... But Chris was like, 'Let's do this.'"

Education

Of course, if you're planning on raising livestock, even micro-livestock like quail, you need to educate yourself on local bylaws. You may be pleasantly surprised. Wimbush-Bourque reports that residents of Westmount, Montreal's most tony neighbourhood, are allowed to keep chickens.

Wynne, who offers classes in canning and preserving at her company Preservation Society, says it's important to seek a mentor, or take a class, to ensure more successful experiments.

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5 TIPS FOR THE URBAN HOMESTEADER

LAURA BOAST/METRO

Apple sauce TIM AND ANGELA CHIN/ COURTESY PENGUIN CANADA

1 Why it's called preserving

Camilla Wynne, owner of Preservation Society, says food that is properly canned will keep for a very long time. So there's no need to worry about Aunt Ida's two-year-old jam, or your own big batch of preserves. Things are preserved so they can be enjoyed for years to come.

Colour, flavour and texture degrade over time, Wynne says, but that's it. She argues that some preserves like marmalade improve with age, like wine, as their flavours deepen.

"The best-before date on (canned food) really is just about the best part," says Wynne. "Your canned peaches after five years might be on the browner side, but if there's a nuclear holocaust, it's still edible."

Wynne teaches a class at her company Preservation Society. COURTESY CAMILLA WYNNE

2 Yes, you can

Keep things simple when you first start canning.

"I tell people to start with refrigerator pickles," says Aimée Wimbush-Bourque, author of the recipe book Brown Eggs and Jam Jars. "They're easy."

Camilla Wynne says fruits like peaches and raspberries are also a good bet because there is sufficient acid for food safety (fruit is acid) and you can customize the flavour to taste. Simply put the raw fruit in sanitized jars, add water, fruit juice or syrup and whatever special extras you desire.

"Add spices, herbs, honey or liqueurs to amp up the flavour," says Wynne.

BE SAFE: Follow the proper procedure for canning. That's where a class or a mentor can come in handy.

Wimbush-Bourque and family in an apple orchard TIM AND ANGELA CHIN/ COURTESY PENGUIN CANADA

3 Picnic on the lawn

If growing crops on your apartment balcony is out of the question, you can forage for free food around your apartment building or your friend's back garden, says conservation biologist Michelle Nelson.

Take dandelions, for instance. Europeans settlers planted them as an edible plant. The same is true of a lot of weeds found in lawns across the country. "People forget they're food," she says.

BE SAFE: Don't eat weeds treated with pesticides. Nelson is putting out a foraging guide with 30 edible weeds.

Edible Japanese knotweed ALISON PAGE/THE URBAN HOMESTEADING COOKBOOK

4 If you can't beat 'em, eat 'em

Nelson suggests that more daring locavores might want to join the Invasive Food Movement. It's a way to bite back against invasive plants and animals that are out-competing native species. Have a hankering for escargot? Find some invasive European garden snails, taking over gardens across the country. Japanese knotweed, now a pesky invasive plant, is an edible plant in the spring.

BE SAFE: Before you set out, get guidance on bylaws and safety of invasive species.

ALISON PAGE/THE URBAN HOMESTEADING COOKBOOK

5 Get out of town

If you aren't ready to go whole hog, but want a taste of farm life, go ahead and get that taste, smell and touch — on a real farm. "So many farms now, if you call them up, they have specific visitors days, and you-pick-it days," says Wimbush-Bourque. "Farmers are wising up to the fact that city dwellers are looking for that connection to the land."

Wimbush-Bourque and her family enjoy visiting local country fall fairs for a day, packing a picnic, visiting the livestock and produce displays, and learning about the lifestyle.

"You get a feel of farm life if you hang out long enough," she says.

TRY IT

This recipe, from Aimée Wimbush-Bourque's recipe book **Brown Eggs and Jam Jars**, is the epitome of simple, whole food. If you've got chives growing in a container garden on your balcony, or a friend with chives in the garden, you can make this. Great straight on baguette, crostini or cucumber sandwiches.

Radish chive butter

Makes ½ cup (125 mL)
(This butter will keep, covered and refrigerated, for up to 2 days)

¼ cup (60 mL) unsalted butter, room temperature
4 radishes
1 Tbsp (15 mL) chopped young chives
Flaky sea salt

1. Place butter in a small bowl. Using a microplane, grate radishes into the butter. Add chopped chives. Cream the mixture together with a sturdy spatula until it is a unified paste.
2. Transfer radish butter to a small serving dish and serve at room temperature with the sea salt for garnish.

TIM AND ANGELA CHIN/COURTESY PENGUIN CANADA

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VW Golf stands test of time

ROAD TESTED

JIL McINTOSH/FOR METRO

REVIEW

Roomier 2015 model feels solid, yet light to drive

Jil McIntosh
For Metro

Talk about longevity: the Volkswagen Golf is now 40 years old, and in that time, the company has made more than 30 million copies. And now, for 2015, there's a new one.

You might not even notice if you're not really familiar with it, because the styling changes are relatively minor. But it rides on a new platform, and it's slightly longer and wider for more interior space.

A two-door hatchback version starts at $18,995, while the four-door begins at $19,995.

A station wagon is also available. A diesel engine is offered, but this reviewer drove the turbocharged gasoline 1.8-litre four-cylinder. And there's one more choice in all three Golf trim lines: five-speed manual or six-speed automatic transmission.

> **No car stays around that long if it doesn't have the chops**

No car stays around that long if it doesn't have the chops. The Golf feels solid but not heavy, and its steering is almost perfectly weighted, with enough heft to feel in control, but still light enough that you can spin it easily into a parking space. There is virtually no lag in its peppy turbo engine, and the automatic shifts smoothly and almost imperceptibly. This car is just a joy to drive.

Don't prejudge if you initially find the seats too hard. They're not cushy, but they're extremely supportive, and unlike many softer seats, they'll stay comfortable for hours.

The car Metro took for a drive had the top Highline trim, which includes leather seats, rain-sensing wipers, twin-pane panoramic sunroof, and an auto-dimming mirror, for $29,895. The vehicle also included an optional package of premium stereo, navigation, LED running lights, forward collision warning, and adaptive high-intensity headlamps for another $2,195.

An issue with the Golf is that while the interior is put together very well, its plain and plastic-heavy appearance can be at odds with the top trim's price. It's fine in the $20,000 model, but doesn't look upscale enough at $32,000.

That aside, 30 million fans can't be wrong. The Golf is practical, but it's also a good performer. Even if you only buy a car as a commuter, there's no reason why it can't be fun to drive, as well.

THE CHECKLIST | 2015 VOLKSWAGEN GOLF

THE BASICS

Type. Four-door, five-passenger compact hatchback
Engine (hp/torque). 1.8-litre turbo four-cylinder (170/185)
Transmission. Five-speed manual or six-speed automatic
Price. Base $19,995, as tested, $32,090 (plus destination)

POINTS

- The Golf is currently the only non-premium vehicle to offer a diesel engine in a hatchback or station wagon.
- The infotainment screen has a proximity sensor to bring up the menu when you put your hand near it.

JIL McINTOSH/FOR METRO

COOL FEATURES

- Available: auto-dimming high-beams
- Fender stereo system
- Panoramic dual-pane sunroof
- Forward collision warning
- Rain-sensing wipers
- Sport seats and suspension
- Rearview camera

MARKET POSITION

- Originally sold as the Rabbit in Canada when it debuted for 1975, the Golf went on to become a bestseller for the company. Volkswagen generally plays it safe with its styling changes, and most of this all-new model's upgrades are under the skin.

THE COMPETITION

Honda Fit
Base price: $14,575

Mazda3 Sport
Base price: $16,995

Kia Forte5
Base price: $19,495

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AUTO NEWS SWITZERLAND'S FIRST DRIVERLESS CAR HITS ZURICH ROADS

The roads of Zurich, Switzerland, hosted the Volkswagen Passat self-driving car. FLICKR: BENJAMIN STÄUDINGER

Swiss telephone firm Swisscom recently unveiled a driverless car that has been tested on the roads of Zurich, a first in the country. The Volkswagen Passat, which underwent a week of road tests earlier this month, had been equipped with sensors, computers and special software. "Swisscom is interested in the digitization of the economy," said company official Christian Petit. The computer drives, steers and brakes the car and uses laser scanners, radar and video cameras to detect nearby vehicles and pedestrians and road users. The software is used to issue driving commands and analyse data. The project also involves Germany's AutoNomos Labs, which has run similar tests in Berlin. The test Passat has two people in it as a precautionary measure. AFP

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S13501B

2011 SCION XD
Automatic, A/C, tilt steering wheel, power windows, wireless phone connectivity, CD/AM/FM/MP3.
$51 WEEKLY @ 84 MONTHS | SALE PRICE $12,995

BB3982

2014 RANGE ROVER SPORT V6
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$346 WEEKLY @ 84 MONTHS | SALE PRICE $91,888

S14734A

2008 MITSUBISHI LANCER ES
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VK0952B

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Automatic, leather interior, power driver seat, wooden trim accent, steering wheel mounted audio and cruise controls.
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S13455C

2012 CHEVROLET CRUZE LT TURBO
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AB10591

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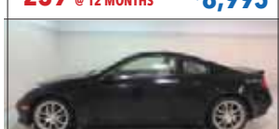
AB10655

2007 INFINITI G35 SPORT
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AB10638

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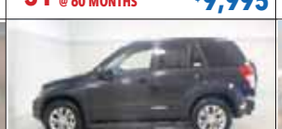
AB10600

2013 SUZUKI GRAND VITARA JX
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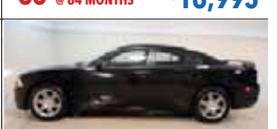
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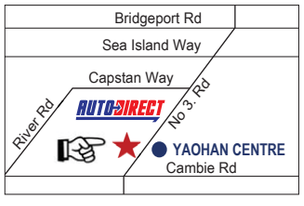

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Supercharging with Tesla. TESLA

China inspires Tesla move

E-CARS

Automaker to adopt new charging standards

Electric-car maker Tesla will adopt China's future standard for charging electric vehicles, the company said recently, in an issue which has been a barrier to sales for the US firm in the world's largest auto market.

Tesla's imported electric vehicles now use a plug based on the European standard, which is incompatible with the current Chinese standard, Tesla officials have said. But Tesla has pledged to make its vehicles match China's charging standard, which is still under review.

"Tesla will also provide conversion devices for vehicles to realize perfect compatibility with the new standard," the company said.

China is currently formulating its own standards for electric vehicles including charging, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology said in September, but gave no timing.

"Solving the charging problem is the top priority in promoting pure-electric cars," said Zhu Xiaotong, Tesla's general manager for the China region.

"Tesla will fully co-operate on the development of the national standards and construction of public charging infrastructure," he added.

Despite early positive media coverage, the company has struggled in the Chinese market, building up an inventory of unsold cars and laying off staff. Tesla founder Elon Musk told the media earlier this year, "China is the only place on Earth where we have excess inventory."

China's electric car market remains small for now. Electric and hybrid vehicle sales in the country reached 26,581 in the first quarter of this year, three times the number from the year-ago period, but still accounting for less than 1 per cent of total sales, according to the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers. AFP

RANKINGS

Mazda3: coolest car in U.S.

The Mazda3 has taken the top honour as the coolest affordable car on sale in the US at the moment, pushing the Volkswagen Golf into second place.

The ranking comes courtesy of Kelley Blue Book, the consumer- and industry-serving vehicle valuation and automotive research firm, which has published the annual list.

Kelley Blue Book defined a car as cool — and a candidate for its list — if it cost $18,000 or less, was fun to drive and fun to own, that is, spent most of its time in the driveway rather than with a mechanic or an after-sales service department. AFP

Mazda Tribute has got grip

USED VEHICLE

Checks on 2008-2011 models include transmission

Now replaced by the Mazda CX-5, the Tribute was a Ford-based crossover model that offered up available V6 power, four-wheel drive, generous amounts of ground clearance, and a focus on capability and versatility.

Competing with machines like the Toyota RAV-4, Honda CR-V and Subaru Forester, Tribute also offered two or four-wheel drive, and manual or automatic transmissions.

The model boasted a comfortable ride and car-like handling, despite being surprisingly capable in an off-road setting. The fully automatic 4x4 system works well in virtually any situation, too, diligently extracting traction from even slippery surfaces.

Largely, the Tribute looks like a solid used crossover SUV bet, though a few checks are advised during the test-drive process for peace of mind.

On a test drive of 2008-2011 models, pay special attention to the operation of the automatic transmission. Scrutinize any model that is difficult to shift into or out of gear, and note any hard shifting, hesitation or slipping from the gearbox. Some owners have reported having to replace transmissions under warranty. Another sign of trouble is a delay when trying to shift from reverse to drive, and vice versa. Try this several times, making note of any delay.

Check for proper operation of the power windows in both directions, as many reports of failed window regulators have been made in owner forums.

JUSTIN PRITCHARD

Features

Power seats, tinted glass, fog lamps, stability control, air conditioning, cruise control, leather-wrapped accents, steering-wheel audio controls, remote access, heated mirrors and MP3 capability for the stereo system.

Engines

Look for a 2.5-litre four-cylinder with 171 horsepower, or a 3-litre V6 with 200. From 2009 and on, that V6 was retuned to create 240 horsepower.

What owners like

Good performance from the factory stereo system, very pleasing performance with the 240-horsepower V6 engine, good ride quality and year-round traction on AWD models. Good outward visibility and a tough and durable feel to the Tribute's ride are also noted.

What owners dislike

Mainly heavy fuel consumption, some cheap interior trim, and higher-than-expected levels of wind and road noise. Some owners also wish for more comfortable seats, or a manual-mode with the automatic transmission for more control of shifting.

The verdict

Tribute seems to be well-enjoyed for its driving experience and performance, though potential transmission issues seem slightly worrisome. Seek out a good price on a model with full service records that exhibit no signs of trouble, and buy confidently.

Richport FORD

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Cars fuelled Letterman's material

AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz

It's getting awfully late for The Late Show with David Letterman. In fact there is precisely one show left, and it will be broadcast tonight at 11:30 p.m. ET.

After that, TV screens will not exactly go dark on weekdays at 11:30, but for David Letterman fans, yours truly included, it will seem a little darker than usual, at least during a suitable grieving period.

Dave's first late show, Late Night with David Letterman, debuted in 1982. Since then, the talk-show host has thrown watermelons off buildings, put on a Velcro suit and flung himself against a Velcro wall, and crushed various things in a hydraulic press.

Letterman is also a real "car guy," and wasn't shy about showing that side of himself on the show. Check out Dave's visit to Jerry Seinfeld's Comedians in Cars Getting Coffee, to hear Dave talk cars and watch Jerry drive one of Letterman's prized vehicle possessions — a 1995 Volvo 960 Wagon stuffed with a Ford V8 racing engine.

Born and raised in Indianapolis, Ind., and a big fan of Indy-car racing, Letterman routinely invited the Indy 500 race winner on the show, and then became involved in the sport, as a co-owner of the successful Rahal Letterman Lanigan Racing team.

Canadian car enthusiasts can also be proud of how Letterman brought to prominence Richard "Dick" Assman, the gas station operator from Regina, Sask. Yes, we should be so proud, of how Dave referenced him continuously on the show for about a month, and seemed unable to help himself to the wordplay comedy that was possible by just saying "Assman the Gasman."

So thanks Dave, for all that late-night comedy, automotive and otherwise. Here are some entries of Dave's famous Top 10 lists that had something to do with cars and/or driving:

Top 10 Things that Will Get You Kicked Out of Disney World

• Driving down Main Street USA with Bambi's mother strapped to your fender

Top 10 Summer Jobs in Hell

• Human Axle, Raymond Burr's Town Car

Bigfoot's Top 10 Peeves

• Driver's licence photo makes him look like Gregg Allman

Top 10 Ways to Add Excitement to a Long Car Trip

• Play connect the dots with dead bugs on windshield

Top Ten Perks to Being Elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame

• Use of bullpen car for family vacations

John Gotti's Top 10 Tax Tips

• Guys who escape from the trunk of your car may be considered business losses

Top 10 Least Popular Broadway Shows

• I'm Not Going to Pay a Lot for this Muffler: A Dramatic Reading by James Earl Jones

Top 10 Ways to Tell You're Possessed

• You don't have to use the rear-view mirror to look at the cars behind you

Top 10 Peeves of the Ghost of Elvis

• Ghost of Leonardo Da Vinci never really thanked me for the Cadillac I gave him

Top 10 Unsafe Toys

• Traffic Tag

The Easter Bunny's Top 10 Pet Peeves

• Having to cross I-95

Top 10 Ways Life would be Different if Dogs Ran the World

• All motorists must drive with their head out the car window

Top 10 Ways American Cars Would be Different if Ralph Nader Had Never Been Born

• Strobe headlights make oncoming traffic look like an old time movie

AUTOMOTIVE-INSPIRED LETTERMAN TOP TEN LISTS

Top 10 Least Popular Roadside Attractions

10. Geraldo-Land
9. Arena Football Hall of Fame
8. Stump Johnson's World of Angry Animals
7. World's Largest Spit Tank
6. Catch-Your-Own Wasp Ranch
5. Recreation of Vin Scully's boyhood home
4. One-eyed Elf Dodgeball Cage
3. You-Hit-It, We-Cook-It Roadkill Grill
2. The Enhanced Mitten
1. Giant Shirtless Santa Claus

Top 10 Rejected Model Names for Cars

10. Pontiac Cyst
9. Dodge Glove
8. Oldsmobile Beiruter
7. Nissan Spleen
6. Chevy Junta
5. Hyundai Accordion
4. Mazda Eczema 500
3. Dodge Johnson
2. Yugo Screw Yourself
1. Ford Gelding

David Letterman is retiring.
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metro SPORTS

EA Sports' made-in-Canada NHL 16 game will feature playoff beards

Wednesday, May 20, 2015

'It's a game we need to win'

WHITECAPS

Second leg of semifinal in Edmonton on Wednesday

Cam Tucker
Metro | Vancouver

Carl Robinson's message is simple, as the Vancouver Whitecaps head into the second leg of their Amway Canadian Championship semifinal with FC Edmonton.

"We need to score," said Robinson on Tuesday. "If we don't score, we're out."

Why complicate things, right?

The winner of this semifinal advances to the final, which is scheduled to be played in August. With no snow in the forecast this time, the Whitecaps will need a result in Edmonton on Wednesday. The team with the better goal aggregate moves on.

A week ago, the Whitecaps needed a late goal from Gershon Koffie at home just to earn a 1-1 draw with Edmonton, and that result is making for a considerably more dramatic game in the finale than Vancouver's fans would've hoped for.

In a bid to boost the attack, it appears midfielder Pedro Morales will enter into the starting lineup.

"It's an important game for us. Make no bones about it, it's a game we need to win," said Robinson.

Based on Tuesday's training session at UBC, the Whitecaps could open in Edmonton with as many as four starters — Morales, Russell Teibert, Cristian Techera and Kendall Waston — from Saturday's loss to Seattle.

Robinson cautioned the lineup for the semifinal would be selected later Tuesday evening.

"We're going to have to make decisions based upon what we think will win the game tomorrow and then focus on Saturday," said Robinson.

The manager admitted selecting Wednesday's lineup is difficult because the club also has a regular-season match on the road against the Colorado Rapids, a Western Conference opponent, on Saturday.

Goals have been difficult to come by for the Whitecaps, despite a record of 6-4-2 that has them sitting second in the West after 12 games played. Goals from corner kicks have been non-existent. They've scored twice — one directly, one indirectly — off of free kicks.

"We need to win this game. We need to play well. We need to perform," said Teibert.

The Whitecaps' Nicolas Mezquida has his free kick blocked by a wall of FC Edmonton players during the first leg of their Amway Canadian Championship semifinal at BC Place Stadium on May 13. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL

Canucks announcement to be made in Prince George

Vancouver Canucks president Trevor Linden is in Prince George to make an announcement Wednesday.

It's been reported that the Canucks will announce they are holding their upcoming September training camp in Prince George.

Trevor Linden GETTY IMAGES

Last September, the Canucks held training camp in Whistler. CAM TUCKER/METRO

McLellan hired as Oilers' new head coach

The Edmonton Oilers officially hired Todd McLellan as their new head coach, making the announcement at a news conference Tuesday afternoon.

Todd McLellan THE CANADIAN PRESS

McLellan spent the past seven seasons as coach of the San Jose Sharks, making the playoffs in his first six. He has a career 311-163-66 coaching record in the regular season, but is 30-32 in the playoffs. He also coached Canada to a gold medal at the world hockey championship in Prague. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Warriors battle back to draw first blood

NBA PLAYOFFS

Curry too hot to handle as Rockets waste 16-point lead

Stephen Curry hit two free throws in the final seconds to finish with 34 points, and the Golden State Warriors rallied from 16 points down in the second quarter to beat the Houston Rockets 110-106 on Tuesday night in Game 1 of the Western Conference final.

GAME 1 In Oakland

110	106

Warriors' Stephen Curry was the difference on the night TONY AVELAR/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

With the Rockets seemingly ready to rout the home team, the Warriors went to a smaller lineup and closed the first half on a 21-4 run. Shaun Livingston scored 14 of his 18 points in the quarter, helping Golden State go ahead 58-55 at halftime.

The Warriors held off Houston in the final minute of the fourth.

James Harden, the runner-up to Curry in the MVP voting, nearly brought the Rockets back after Dwight Howard departed with a left knee injury. Harden finished with 28 points, 11 rebounds, nine assists and four steals. Game 2 is Thursday night in Oakland.

Harden, serenaded with chants of "Over-rated!" from Warriors fans, mixed in a series of step-back jumpers and driving layups to help Houston even the score at 95-all midway through the fourth.

But the Warriors shut down Houston for long stretches, and Curry kept hitting shots. He connected on a three-pointer and converted a layup to put Golden State up 108-97 with 2:01 remaining.

The Rockets never relented, though, with Trevor Ariza making a three-pointer that trimmed the Warriors' lead to 108-106 with 14.6 seconds to play.

Curry twice caught the inbounds pass, and the Rockets were forced to foul him both times. He hit both free throws to seal Golden State's win.

Curry added six rebounds and five assists, and Green had 13 points, 12 rebounds and eight assists to boost the Warriors when they needed it most.

Ariza scored 20 points and Josh Smith had 17 points and seven rebounds for Houston, which played without Howard for most of the fourth. The centre's status moving forward is unclear. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Eugene Melnyk, seen here in October 2011, underwent successful liver transplant surgery on Tuesday. GETTY IMAGES

IN TORONTO

Melnyk transplant a success, Sens say

Ottawa Senators owner Eugene Melnyk underwent a successful liver transplant, the team announced Tuesday night.

The Senators said Melnyk and the anonymous donor are doing well and resting comfortably at Toronto General Hospital.

The team announced last week that Melnyk was in need of a live liver transplant and put 12 people through a screening process.

Melnyk went into surgery at noon Eastern time, and it was completed at 8:05 p.m., the Senators said.

The Senators said there would be no further update Tuesday night but that the University Health Network's Multi-Organ Transplant Program will update Melnyk and the donor's progress later this week. THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Contador gains time on rival Porte after 10th stage

Alberto Contador held on to the overall lead and gained time on rival Richie Porte in the very flat 10th stage of the Giro d'Italia on Tuesday. Italian rider Nicola Boem won the stage after getting into an early breakaway that reached the finish.

Porte had to change a punctured tire and dropped behind the main pack in the final kilometres, losing 47 seconds to the general classification leaders. Porte dropped from third to fourth overall, 1:09 behind Contador. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canada may be on shortlist to host World Cup 2026

A 2026 World Cup hosting contest which could include the United States and exclude Europe will take shape next week when FIFA agrees on campaign rules.

FIFA said Tuesday that its executive committee will approve bidding regulations at a two-day meeting starting Monday.

The executive committee could block European bids from a contest set to feature CONCACAF neighbours Canada, Mexico and the U.S. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIANAPOLIS 500

Hinchcliffe out of racing indefinitely

Ruled out of racing for the foreseeable future, IndyCar driver James Hinchcliffe thanked the "heroes" who helped him after his frightening crash at Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

There was never any doubt that Monday's accident was serious: Hinchcliffe was taken immediately to a local hospital for surgery on his left thigh and pelvic area and two sources familiar with the details told The Associated Press his leg had been pierced by the car's right front rocker.

The surgery at Indiana University Methodist Hospital was needed to stop massive bleeding and his doctor said Monday that the accident had left the popular Canadian in critical condition

"He's stable and improving," said Dr. Timothy Pohlman, who performed the surgery at Indiana University Health Methodist Hospital. "His condition was critical upon his arrival and I think the IndyCar system as a whole needs to be commended for how well they can take care of drivers in this situation."

"Words can't describe how thankful I am" to the on-track Holmatro safety team, Hinchcliffe said in a statement released by IndyCar. "Those guys, in addition to the doctors and staff at the hospital, are my heroes." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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RECIPE Smoked Salmon and Goat Cheese Cucumber Slices

EAT LIGHT AT HOME

Rose Reisman
rosereisman.com
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This is a great light appetizer for your next dinner party. Try smoked trout for an alternative.

Ready in
Prep time: 10 minutes

Ingredients
- 3 oz smoked salmon
- ½ cup goat cheese
- 3 Tbsp low-fat yogurt
- 1 tsp freshly squeezed lemon juice
- 4 tsp chopped fresh dill
- 24 slices cucumber (¼ inch thick)

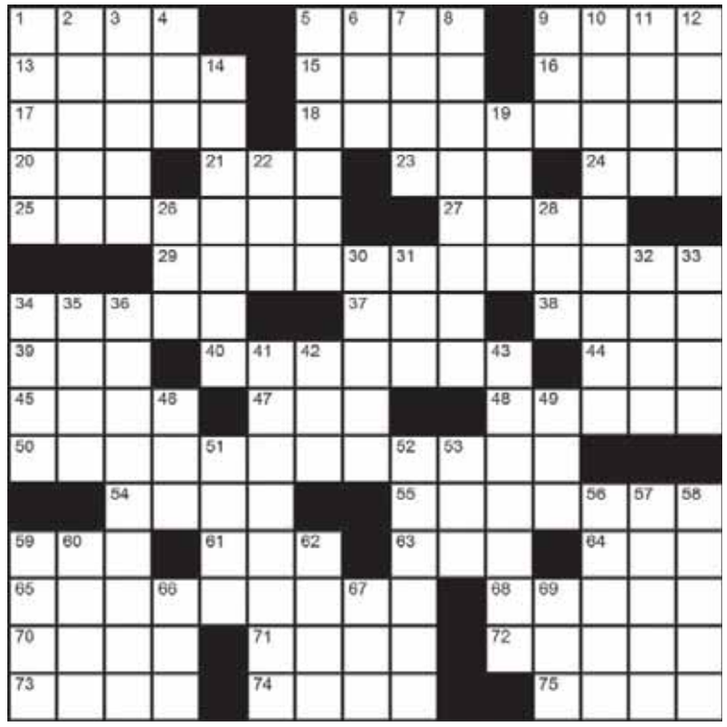
Directions
1. Combine the goat cheese, yogurt and lemon juice until smooth, using a food processor or by hand.
2. Dice the smoked salmon and set aside 24 small bits for garnish. Add the remaining salmon and the dill to the yogurt-cheese mixture.
3. Divide the mixture evenly among the cucumber slices. Garnish with the reserved salmon bits.

Nutrition per cucumber slice (recipe serves 6)
- Calories 14
- Protein 1 g
- Carbohydrates 0 g
- Fibre 0 g
- Total fat 1 g
- Saturated fat 0.1 g
- Cholesterol 4 mg
- Sodium 66 mg
- Fiber 0 g

PHOTO: ROSE REISMAN

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Earthen pot type
5. Foreboding
9. Quebec city on the Saguenay River
13. Montreal-born actress, Tara Spencer-__
15. Writer, wee-ly
16. Envisioned
17. Little Richard's "__ Frutti"
18. __ Mine (Nickel mine in Sudbury)
20. "__ you sure?"
21. "__, _ need to talk to you." ...said the agent to Mr. Pacino
23. Ms. West
24. Deuce
25. Ideal model
27. Alaskan city
29. "The __ __" (APTN show on which a panel of comedians discuss current events with host Michael Hutchinson)
34. Scrooge
37. Tokyo, once
38. Captain Hook's sidekick
39. Suffix meaning 'Sort of'
40. They speak louder than words
44. High sch. math
45. Mix
47. Promos
48. Cheryl of "Curb You Enthusiasm"
50. Places to pick up milk, the paper, 6/49 tickets, etc.: 2 wds.
54. Norse epic
55. Northern flights provider headquartered in Thompson, Manitoba: 2 wds.
59. Unwell
61. "_ __ Mine" by The Beatles
63. Increase
64. TV brand
65. Settlers of The New World
68. Elliptical path
70. Above
71. Behind
72. Beatles 'Revolver' song: "For __ __"
73. Cozy retreat
74. Punt
75. Energy units

DOWN
1. Available for pouring: 2 wds.
2. Ex-Pres. Bush's wife
3. Less heavy, in diet food advertisements
4. Auction ware
5. Veneer
6. France's Ii'l locale
7. "Up and __ '_!" (Rise and shine!)
8. Welsh goddess sharing the name of a Fleetwood Mac hit
9. Strong wood
10. Big name departing late night TV tonight
11. Feline's utterance
12. Latin 'year'
14. __ Falls, Ontario
19. Cartography subj.
22. "__ Grant"
26. Brewery brew
28. Docs
30. Art gallery crime
31. Oath-taker's words
32. River to the Ubangi
33. Ms. Tilly's
34. Filing cabinet abbr.
35. "That's all there __ __ it!"
36. "Mama Said": 1961 hit for The __
41. Chocolate bar with a 'Secret' sealed in a Toronto vault
42. QB's feats
43. Character on "The Big Bang Theory"
46. Circular, curtly
49. Doctrine
51. Mag gig, __-__-Chief
52. Ric of The Cars
53. "Way cool."
56. Ann __, Michigan
57. __ on the cake
58. Appraises
59. Computer graphic
60. Theme of many songs
62. Mr. Morales
66. Bit of food
67. Transport for T.O. commuters
69. __ v. Wade

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
Can you tell fact from fiction? When confronted with two sets of figures today you must not just assume that what the experts tell you is right. Use your powers of logic to cut through the hype.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
If there is something you have left unfinished, then get on with it today and get it out of the way once and for all. When the Sun leaves your birth sign tomorrow you will have more important things to worry about , so do it now.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
The Sun moves into your birth sign tomorrow and if you are smart you will spend the next 12 to 24 hours tying up loose ends. After that it's all systems go.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
You have nothing to be worried about and everything to look forward to over the next few days and you need to keep reminding yourself of that fact. The Sun's change of signs tomorrow will challenge you to always be positive.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
You will be putting yourself about over the next two or three days, especially on the work front where you can sense that the present confusion and chaos will give rise to new opportunities.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
As the Sun crosses the career angle of your chart tomorrow the next two or three days are going to be extremely important for your ambitions. If ever there was a time to sets your sights higher that time is now. Be the best.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Put your worries behind you and let a big smile spread across your face. Once the Sun moves into your fellow Air sign of Gemini tomorrow there will be no holding you back — it will be love and laughs all the way.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Partnerships won't be so intense as from this evening, which is good, but that does not mean you can ignore them altogether. In fact, joint financial ventures are still hugely important, so make sure you know what others are doing with your money!

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You are about to enter a more positive phase but that does not mean you can do as you please. The Sun's entry into your opposite sign tomorrow is a boost but it is also an invitation to work more closely with partners.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Over the next few days you will need to get a bit more serious about your work and your wellbeing. Not that there's anything to worry about but you do need to pace yourself better.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
One of the best times of the year is about to begin and when the Sun changes signs tomorrow there will be no stopping you. Just remember to pause and enjoy the moment once in a while. Live in the present.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
Whatever new chores and duties come your way over the next few days you can still have fun. Loved ones will go out of their way to make life enjoyable for you.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

	4		2	3	5		6	
5	8						7	1
4			6		7			3
6				5				7
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Difficulty Level ★★

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